**Charity in Russia and Great Britain**

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**Introduction**

Charity is quite popular nowadays. People have become more open and kind-hearted. On the whole, charity means voluntary giving of help to those who are in need. Charitable giving can include the act of giving money, goods, time, attention and kindness to the unfortunate. Most forms of charity mean providing basic items of necessity, such as food, water, clothing, shelter, healthcare and else. There are so many charitable organizations in the world today. They allow people to donate either directly or online, through websites. Charitable organizations also include orphanages, food banks, religious institutes and hospitals for the poor. Donating things you don’t use anymore is one of the forms of charity. Not everyone is lucky enough to have lots of toys or warm clothes for winter. Sometimes people simply can’t find the job to earn enough money. Others are sick, disabled or elderly and can’t get around on their own. These are the cases when charity helps. If everyone made charity a part of their life and helped those who are in need, the world would become a better place to live. Mother Teresa once said: “To truly give charity, you must be free of selfishness!” And, it’s true. The acts of charity come in many different forms. It you have ever helped to plant a garden or gave your jar of coins to someone who needs it more than you, then you already know what charity is. However, true charity doesn’t only mean giving out money and unwanted items to others. True charity starts with a kind word given by you to someone on a bad day, with a sincere smile and with love.

In this work I`ll try to outline some major facts about charity in Great Britain and Russia.

**1. Charity in GB: a bit of history**

The charity of Great Britain exists more than 400 years. It was founded by Theodore’s family, who

began to promote the idea of philanthropy among aristocrats and merchants. The peak of its development was in 18- 19 centuries. It was a period of involving the middle class in charity. If we speak about modern period of time, we can boldly say, that nowadays the charity becomes an

integral part of Britain’s life. Not only members of Royal Family and famous persons take part in

charity, but also ordinary citizens. About 70 % of population regularly allots money on the charity.

As for the Royal Family its role consists in the patronage of the charity organizations. Thus the

Queen is the patron of more than 500 such organizations. For example, Action for children, Cancer

Research UK, Red Cross and so on. Princess Diana actively took up the charity. She did a lot to

attract the attention of community to the problems of homeless, physically challenged and human

with immunodeficiency virus.

There are different forms of aiding in Britain. Charity funds realize different auctions, where

famous people also take part. Famous sportsmen take part every year in the events of national scope – in London’s Marathon. They perform from the name of different charity organizations, which have the right to buy the assured places in the overshoot. All collected money from the heat is devoted to the charity. It’s the biggest action of fundraising which is led

every year.



Picture 1 Charity run

As for citizens of Great Britain, first of all, they lead the national actions to devote the money. The

day of Red Nose is well-known and was led from the 1988. People donate money buying red noses.

Brought facilities are sent to help to needy and invalids in Great Britain and Africa. Many schools

take part in this activity. It was collected about 7, 7 million pounds in 2009.

To sum up I want to tell that the wide part of the population takes part in the charity of Great

Britain. From the childhood children are get to know with the idea of compassion and mercy. There are different national holidays where every person can give their own mite in the devoting of money.

**2 Charitable organizations in GB**

*OXFAM*

Oxford Committee for Famine Relief

It is a British organization that helps people in poor countries. It raises some of its money through sales of new and used goods in its Oxfam shops.



Picture 2 Oxfam charity shop

*Save the children (fund)*



Picture 3 Save the children emblem

This charity takes care of needy children. It raises money, clothes for needy children.

Help the Aged

Help the Aged is a [United Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) based international [charity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charitable_organization) founded in 1961 by [Cecil Jackson-Cole](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecil_Jackson-Cole) to help disadvantaged older people from poverty, isolation and neglect.

Help the Aged had national offices in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As of 2005 the Charity employed over 1,800 people and had an income of £75 million per year.

The Charity was an active campaigner on a number of issues affecting older people including:

* Elder Abuse,
* Poverty among older people
* Health and Social Care,
* Neighbourhoods,
* Pensions and Benefits,
* [Isolation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loneliness) and loneliness



Picture 4 Help the Aged emblem

*RSPCA - Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal.*

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is a [charity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charitable_organization) operating in [England and Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_and_Wales) that promotes [animal welfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal_welfare). In 2012, the RSPCA investigated 150,833 cruelty complaints. It is the oldest and largest animal welfare organisation in the worldand is one of the largest charities in the UK, with 1,667 employees (as of 2011). The organisation also does international outreach work across Europe, Africa and Asia.

Through [their campaigns](http://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign) they raise [standards of care](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare) and awareness of issues for the animals who have no voice.  
They push for [laws to be changed](http://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/changingthelaw), improving the welfare of animals on [farms](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm), in [research labs](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/laboratory), in the [wild](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife), in [paddocks](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/horses) or in our [homes](http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets).

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**3. Charity in Russia: a bit of history**

## In the history of Russia, as well as in that of other countries, poverty was one of the key problems of social and economic development. From the 11 to the 17th century, the major form of poor relief was almsgiving.

## The ease of receiving alms stimulated the expansion of professional mendicancy, which became a real problem, especially in big cities. The 1691 and 1694 decrees established severe sanctions against mendicancy, which were especially harsh with regard to 'fraudulent' beggars (' ... the beggars for the first time be sent back to their native towns, and caught a second time would be beaten [with the *knout*] and exiled to Siberia'). The first quarter of the 18th century (the period of Peter the Great's reign) was a time of transition from spontaneous almsgiving to the creation of public relief institutions organised to a uniform plan and subject to corresponding regulations. Legislation specified the categories of population entitled to relief - decrepit and disabled soldiers, cripples, illegitimate babies, and orphans. Peter the Great suggested that secular hospitals, almshouses and orphanages should be established along similar lines to the charity institutions he saw in England, France and Holland. However, the number of such institutions created in the capitals and the provinces since 1715 was insufficient, and most of the children, the elderly and the disabled who were in need of assistance were distributed among the monasteries where the unfortunates were taken care of by the monks. Starting from the final third of the 18th century, when Russian society came under the influence of the ideas of European Enlightenment, secular poor relief and charity also began to develop in Russia. By the 1763 decree of Empress Catherine the Great, foundling homes were created in Moscow (1764) and St Petersburg (1772).

## http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/welfare/images/russia1big.jpg

## Picture 5 Moscow Foundling Home, built between 1764 and 1770. Courtesy of Michael Zolotarev Collection, Moscow

The development of philanthropy in the Russian empire in the 19th- and early 20th century was determined by social, economic, and institutional changes. On the one hand, pauperisation was evidently on the rise in the context of urbanisation; while on the other, there was an active process of civilising which expressed itself in the Europeanisation of the forms of social life.

Under the patronage of the imperial family and with the participation of the elite of the nobility, the largest charitable organisations - the Department of the Institutions of Empress Maria (Vedomstvo uchrezhdenii Imperatritsy Marii, 1797) and the Imperial Philanthropic Society (Imperatorskoe Chelovekoliubivoe obshchestvo, 1802) - were founded, under the aegis of which a nation-wide network of charitable establishments developed.

## In 1902, the Russian empire had more than 19 thousand charitable associations and institutions, including parish guardianships (in 1914, the latter kept, at the corresponding churches, 44 hospitals with 920 beds, and 683 almshouses with 9,156 beds, privately financed by the parishioners). It is estimated that in the mid-1900s the number of persons receiving care at rural *Zemstvo* and urban municipal institutions probably amounted to 2.5 million, and those at all institutions regardless of their departmental subordination - to more than 3 million.

**4. Charitable organizations in Russia**

**Nastenka Foundation (Pediatric Cancer Hospital) and American Women's Organization (AWO) Charities**

The fund helps Russian children fight cancer. According to the Russian Health Ministry's data, 3,000 children develop cancer annually. In Russia, children's oncology faces many problems that prevent timely and appropriate treatment. The major problem: underfinancing which means lack of medications and equipment and a shortage of qualified medical personnel. as a result, Russian children recovery rate is only 50% compared to that of 80-90% in the Western countries.

Nastenka Foundation was formed to help these sick children of Russia by providing the means for channeling further tax free donations, and through its website bringing the plight of these children worldwide. The American Women’s Organization (AWO) provides additional financial support through the proceeds from their annual holiday bazaar, and emotional assistance to the children and their mothers.

[www.nastenka.ru](http://www.nastenka.ru)



Picture 6 Nastenka emblem

**Diema’s Dream: A foundation for Disable Russian Orphans**

In Russia, no day care or school accepts disabled children. Parents often feel that they have no choice but to abandon their baby to the state for care, which is strongly encouraged by medical establishment. Then, having to face the level of care given to these children in state institutions, most mothers stop visiting their children. Disabled orphan children in Russia are kept in special institutions at 3 different ages; birth to 5 yrs, 5 to 18 yrs and 18 and older. When children turn 18 they are moved to an institution for the adult disable and elderly where most of them surely die within a year.

To provide an alternative to life in an institution, Diema's Dream has just broken ground on a village 250 kms south of Moscow. For the first time in their lives these children will know what it means to live in a home and not an institution. They will sit calmly in their wheelchair with a cat on their lap and a loving dog at their feet. They will continue their education and therapy there. Diema’s Dreams also hopes to be able to give mother’s a choice other then the abandonment of their child. In 2006, Diema's Dream will open an Early Intervention and Education center in the South of Moscow not too far from the orphanage. There, they will have a day care facility and school for disabled children.

[www.diemasdream.com](http://www.diemasdream.com)



Picture 7 Diema’s Dream emblem

**Taganka Children's Fund (TCF)**

Taganka Children’s Fund (TCF) supports over 600 single-parent families, including over 900 disadvantaged children, to prevent children from entering institutionalized care or ending up alone on the city streets. Single parents face immense problems and hurdles in Russia, which often seem impossible to overcome if faced alone. TCF reaches out to those in need to improve the opportunities for lone parents and their children. TCF directs its activities in six main areas: Legal and psychological advice and counseling for single parents; community development programs; employment and training initiatives; cultural programs; resource center and information service for families; and humanitarian aid. TCF could not continue its work without its supporters. Please join us to help make a difference in the lives of needy children.

For more in formation please contact [Taganka Children's Fund](mailto:TCF.Rus@g23.relcom.ru) at +7 (495) 911-74-49

Taganskaya Ploshchad d.88, Building 1, Moscow, Russia

[www.charity-tcf.ru](http://www.charity-tcf.ru)

**Downside Up**

Downside Up was founded by a group of British businessmen in 1996 after they learned about the poor conditions of children with Down syndrome in Russia and the complete absence of any early intervention services for them. Downside Up aims to prevent abandonment by providing parents and carers with the information they need to make an informed choice about caring for their child so that each child has the best chance to be cared for in a loving environment where their basic needs will certainly be met and more. Today the centerpiece of Downside Up’s work is its Early Intervention Center in Moscow where developmental programs for some 650 children with Down syndrome and their families from Moscow and 45 Russian regions are held. For nine years Downside Up has remained the only place in Russia where direct services to these children are provided on a daily basis. In 2006 Downside Up will open a new Early Intervention Center. The bigger premises will enable Downside Up to help twice as many children and satisfy the growing demand for ongoing consultations and training programs for specialists from different regions in Russia. For individuals who want to help, Downside Up runs a Sponsor-A-child program.

If you would like to help children with Down syndrome, please contact [Downside Up](mailto:%20downsideup@downsideup.org) at +7 (495) 367 1000, 367 26 36

3rd Parkovaya Ulitsa d.14A, 105043 Moscow, Russia

[www.downsideup.org](http://www.downsideup.org)

**Kitezh Children’s Community**

Kitezh is a network of therapeutic communities that give children from orphanages loving foster families. The aim is to create a developing environment for the education and care of orphans and children in crisis. The first Kitezh village is in Kaluga Region, 300km south west of Moscow, and the second village Kitezh-Orion, is located 60 Km in the same direction. Kitezh is recognized nationally and internationally for the outstanding work that it does in healing traumatized children and in helping them to build the personal and academic skills to become active, contributing members of society. Their vision is to create children’s fostering villages all over Russia. How many Kitezh villages will it take to empty Russia’s orphanages?

If you would like to help, please contact [Kitezh](mailto:%20KitezhCentre@yandex.ru)

[www.kitezh.org](http://www.kitezh.org)

**International Women's club charities donations office**

The Charities Donations Office of the International Women's Club of Moscow receives many donations of various items. These are sorted by the volunteers at the office and then redistributed to IWC Chanties' projects with baby houses, orphanages, foster families, the elderly, street children, soup kitchens, prisons and holding centers, the handicapped and hospitals, and other charity organizations and individuals in need. There are also regular collections of donations at Pokrovsky Hills, Rosinka & Park Place.

For more information, please contact [IWC Donations Office](mailto:%20iwcdo@yahoo.com) at +7 (916) 410 1366

3 Gruzinsky Pereulok, Entrance 1, Apt 1A (ground floor, M. Belorusskaya; open on Mondays from 1 1.00 to 13.00 (at other times by appointment)

[www.iwcmoscow.ru](http://www.iwcmoscow.ru)

**Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund (ROOF)**

Since 1997, ROOF has been a pioneer in providing high-quality educational opportunities for children and young adults from Russian orphanages. Their aim is to help each child or young adult by providing opportunities and encouragement to learn and grow; to take advantage of their own talents and gifts and make the most of them, working to overcome the disadvantages of their past and become more fully themselves.

[www.roofnet.org](http://www.roofnet.org)

**Action for Russia's Children (ARC)**

Action for Russia’s Children (ARC) is a UK registered charity with an all-volunteer staff. It provides support to Russian organizations that develop care in the community for orphans, homeless, disabled and disadvantaged children.

[www.actionarc.com](http://www.actionarc.com)

**Conclusion**

As we can see charity has got a different history in GB and Russia. In GB it`s much richer due to political and economic and cultural factors. In Russia it started in some wat long ago, but it was not so wide-spread and well-organized. Meanwhile nowadays the both counties have got various organizations which deal with different problems such as illnesses, poverty, animal care and so on.

In my opinion there are lots of charity things to be done to make life of unhappy people and animals brighter and friendlier.

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